



## Symbolism of Chinese Children's Bibs: A Mother's Affectionate Embrace

(in Chinese, Japanese, and English)

By **Christi Lan Lin**

Translated by *Dr. Yu-Chiao Liu Lin*  
and *brenda Lin*



“Needlework is the way that modest Chinese women expressed their love. Under the warm glow of candlelight, she might be sewing a bib for her newborn baby, or may be embroidering shoes for her husband. It could be a windy, rainy night, or in the dead of winter, but the image of a woman with her needlework immediately warms the heart. Beneath the window, she spins thin thread upon thin thread, the multitude of colors overlapping and crisscrossing each other, tightly bound together, magically producing extraordinary designs.” (Christi Lan Lin, Introduction, page 4)

Author Christi Lan Lin found herself fascinated by the needlework in Chinese society—so much so that she decided to share this beautiful art with the world. This book is made up of her own collection of children’s apparel and accessories that she has gathered on her travels to China. The book is divided into three sections, with each section exploring a different piece: the bib, the undergarment, and the capelet. Included in each section are a description, a brief history, and the traditional use of each garment. Although the beautiful needlework is an art form in itself, it is the love that the needlework represents that makes each piece in the collection so special. In Chinese culture, this embroidery was a way for a mother to show her love. Each piece is unique and special, both to the mother and to her child.

“In these hand-made, hand-woven, and hand-embroidered pieces, a mother’s love, hopes, and dreams for her children are expressed through every uniquely creative design. It is love that drives her creativity and, therefore, we see that every piece is artistically and emotionally distinct.” (Eric Tai-Sheng Lin, page 2)

This is a wonderfully inspiring book, exploring the unending depth of a mother’s love via symbolism and the making of children’s bibs.

**Christi Lan Lin** received her MA in biological science from Northern Colorado University. She served as vice president at Les Enphants Co. as until retiring in 1997. Christi has been a volunteer docent at National Palace Museum in Taipei for more than 12 years. She is the author of *Stories of Chinese Children's Hats: Symbolism and Folklore* and *Bonding Via Baby Carriers: The Art and Soul of the Miao and Dong People*.

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